

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 9, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 44

Introduced by Senator Liu

May 2, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 44, as amended, Liu. Foster Care Month 2011.

This ~~Measure~~ *measure* would designate the month of May 2011 as Foster Care Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, All children need and deserve to feel love, a sense
2 of belonging, and the continuity of family and loved ones to support
3 and guide them in their growth and development; and
4 WHEREAS, This need is especially urgent for California's
5 60,000 children in foster care, who have experienced the trauma
6 of neglect, abuse, and separation from family and loved ones; and
7 WHEREAS, Thanks to the focus and commitment of
8 Californians working in public and private organizations in child
9 welfare, probation, mental health, public health, education, and
10 the courts, and the extraordinary commitment of those who open
11 their homes and work with jurisdictions to meet the needs of foster
12 youth for safety, permanency, and well-being, more of California's
13 youth are able to live and grow up with the support of permanent,
14 caring families; and

1 WHEREAS, In recent years, California has made great strides
2 in attaining permanency for thousands of children and youth in
3 foster care; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout the state, children and youth are
5 benefiting from a focus by child welfare jurisdictions on creating
6 permanent family connections from the moment a child enters
7 child welfare supervised care; and

8 WHEREAS, During 2009 2010, almost 60 percent, about ~~19,170~~
9 ~~19,000~~, of the children leaving foster care were returned to their
10 families; and

11 WHEREAS, For those children and youth who could not safely
12 return to their own families, we celebrate that ~~over 6,457~~ *nearly*
13 ~~6,500~~ were adopted during that period and almost 3,000 attained
14 permanence through guardianship with relatives or other adults;
15 ~~and now, therefore, be it~~

16 ~~WHEREAS, We also continue to be concerned for the numerous~~
17 ~~teens that age out of the foster care system without the safety net~~
18 ~~of a permanent family, and look forward with hope to the full~~
19 ~~implementation of Assembly Bill 12 (Ch. 559, Stats. 2010) and~~
20 ~~its promise of care until 21 years of age for foster youth who attain~~
21 ~~majority while in care; now, therefore, be it~~

22 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
24 May 2011 as Foster Care Month in California; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.